BLADE OF THE IMMORTAL

art and story by

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

MANJI
Immortal *rōnin*

RIN
Last heir of the Mutenichi *ryū dōjō* destroyed by Ittō-ryū

MAGATSU
Former Ittō-*ryū* swordsman

SHIRA
Terrifyingly sadistic Akagi assassin

THE STORY SO FAR

Infected by *kessenchu* mystical bloodworms which can heal all wounds and grant their host immortality Manji's bloodthirst led to the capture and murder of his sister To atone for the 100 good people who died at his hand under his corrupted lord Manji vowed to slay 1,000 evil men in exchange for the release of death

Two years earlier when her parents were murdered on her fourteenth birthday by Anotsu Kagehisa s Ittō-*ryū* swords-men Rin Asano became part of a mad revenge cycle which began when Anotsu s grandfather was thrown out of the Asano clan's Mutenichi-*ryū dōjō* fifty years before A quest for vengeance was instilled in Anotsu a similar quest now haunts Rin Upon learning of Manji she enlisted his aid to destroy the Ittō-*ryū* and avenge her parents

Last Issue
Manji and Magatsu were traveling to Kaga An odd couple indeed Magatsu went along to seize the opportunity to kill Shira, who has been hunting Manji And now he s got his chance In typical fashion, Shira surprised them with his new weapon, the remnants of the arm Manji cut off its bones sharpened to painful points So now Magatsu and Shira are going at it, while Manji stays occupied with the bumbling foolishness of Shira s trio of hired hands

designer DEBRA BAILEY assistant editor MICHAEL CAMPIGLIOTTO editor TIM ERVIN-GORE publisher MIKE RICHARDSON

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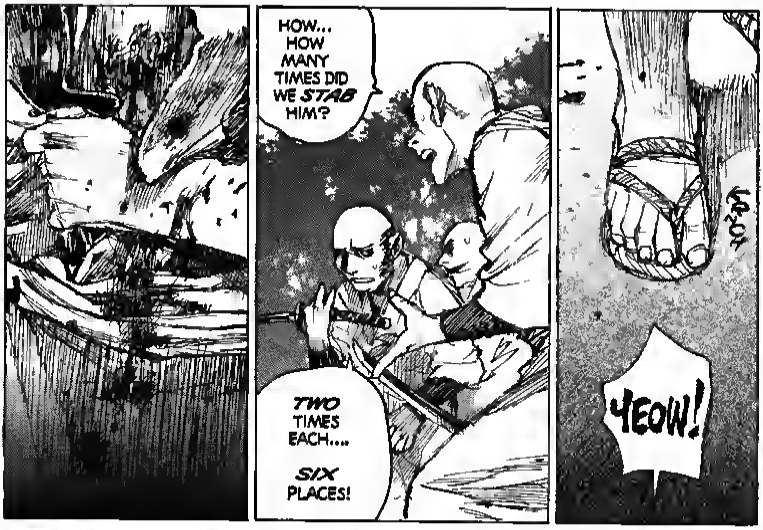
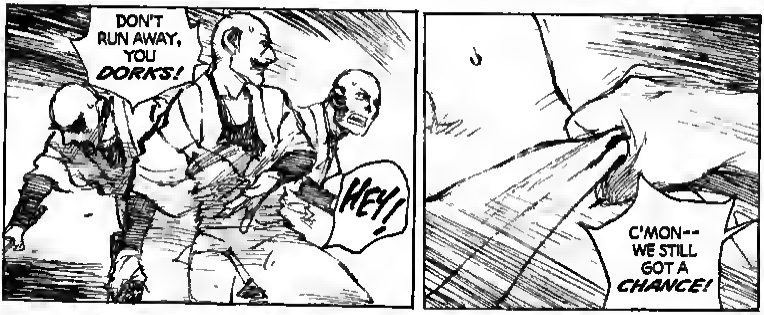
無限の住人

FALL FROST

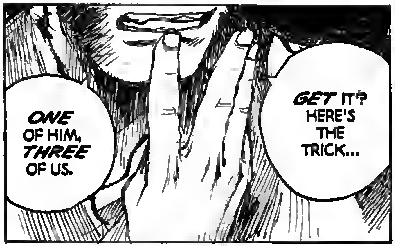
– part four –

WH-WHY WON'T HE CROAK?
HOLY SHIT... HE REALLY DOESN'T DIE! THIS ISN'T FUNNY, MAN-

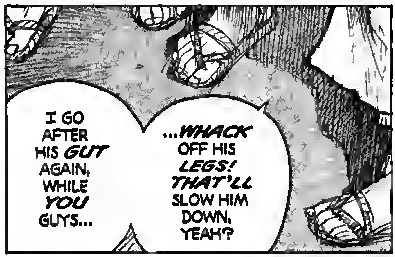

HOW... HOW MANY TIMES DID WE STAB HIM?
TWO TIMES EACH.... SIX PLACES!
YEOW!


DON'T RUN AWAY, YOU DORKS!
HEY!
C'MON-- WE STILL GOT A CHANCE!

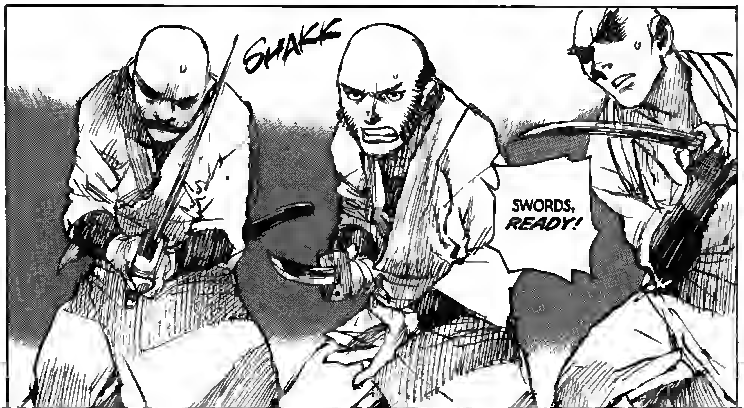
THE HELL WE DO!
"SLOW HIM DOWN"...? GIVE ME BREAK! HE'LL CHOP US TO QUIVERING SHREDS!
NO! WE REALLY CAN SLOW HIM DOWN, SEE?!
SURE, WE'D GET KILLED FIGHTING HIM STRAIGHT. WE'RE WIMPS! SO...LET'S ACT LIKE WIMPS.
HUH? ACT LIKE WIMPS?


ONE OF HIM, THREE OF US.
GET IT? HERE'S THE TRICK...

WE'LL GET ONE LEG AT LEAST.
LOOK... HE'S ONLY GOT ONE WEAPON. HE CAN'T BLOCK ALL OF US.


I GO AFTER HIS GUT AGAIN, WHILE YOU GUYS...
...WHACK OFF HIS LEGS! THAT'LL SLOW HIM DOWN, YEAH?

ALL THREE OF US... TOGETHER!
OKAY... LINE UP! HERE WE GO...


SHAKE
SWORDS, READY!

RYAAAAH!!
THUK
THUK
THUK
THUK

GRK!
WH... WHAT TH--?!
AW, SHIT!!
:kuff:
.....
HEY.

THE PERFECT SHAPE, DON'TCHA THINK...?
NOW THIS ONE HERE... CHECK IT OUT.
AND SNAP-PING 'EM LIKE TWIGS!
FOR SNAGGING ALL OF YOUR SWORDS.
FOR WHAT...?
UH... ER... .....?
HA, HA...
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT...
THREE TIMES ON THE GOD DAMNED KOSHU HIGHWAY.
LISTEN, GUYS. ME? LEMME TELL YA SOMETHING... I'M SICK OF PLAYING THIS SCENE.

"FIRST TIME, I HANG MY BUTT OUT TO DRY THREE DAYS.
"AND ALL I GET TO PLAY IS CLEAN-UP GUY AT A BLOOD-BATH.
"NEXT TIME, I HAVE TO FIGHT THREE HARD-ASS BASTARDS TO THE DEATH.
"MY ARMS AND LEGS HACKED OFF... AND NO TEGATA.
"AND TODAY... TODAY I GOTTA ASK SOME GREEN KID FOR HELP, AND JUST LOOK AT ME."
WHAT KINDA BULLSHIT KHARMA IS DUMPING ON ME LIKE THIS, OVER AND OVER?
I MEAN, COME ON!!
WELL, UH, I CAN'T REALLY--
SHADDUP!!
THAT'S IT. I'VE HAD ENOUGH. I'M NOT TAKING IT ANY MORE.
YOU JERKS ARE THE LAST STRAW!!

I'LL KILL YOU ALL!!

WE APOLOGIZE *MOST HUMBLY*, SIR!!

FOLKS GOTTA KNOW THEIR *PLACE*, GUYS.
SIR! YES, *SIR!*
YOU'RE *WIMPS*, SO AT LEAST *ACT* LIKE WIMPS!

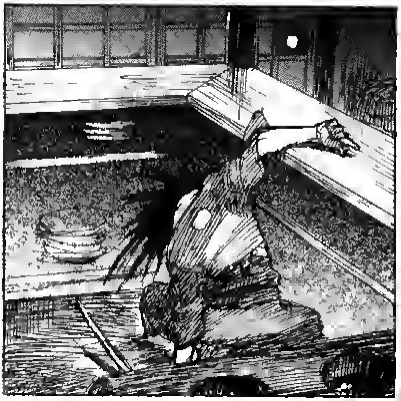
ALL RIGHT, THEN. IF YOU GET THE PICTURE, *PISS OFF*.
YOUR BOSS AIN'T COMING BACK.

AH...? THEN... WE CAN GO...?
YOU DUMB SHIT! NOT FOR FREE, BALDY!
??? SIR...?
WHEN HE HIRED YOU...
...SHIRA SAID HE PAID HALF UP FRONT. SO COUGH IT UP! ALL OF IT!!
.....
.....
POWER MAKES THE WORLD GO AROUND...
YEAH AND MONEY
HEY, HEY! YOU THINK I'VE GOT SHIT FOR BRAINS? SHIRA TOLD ME HOW MUCH HE PAID YOU GUYS, SO DON'T PUSH YOUR LUCK, BUDDY!

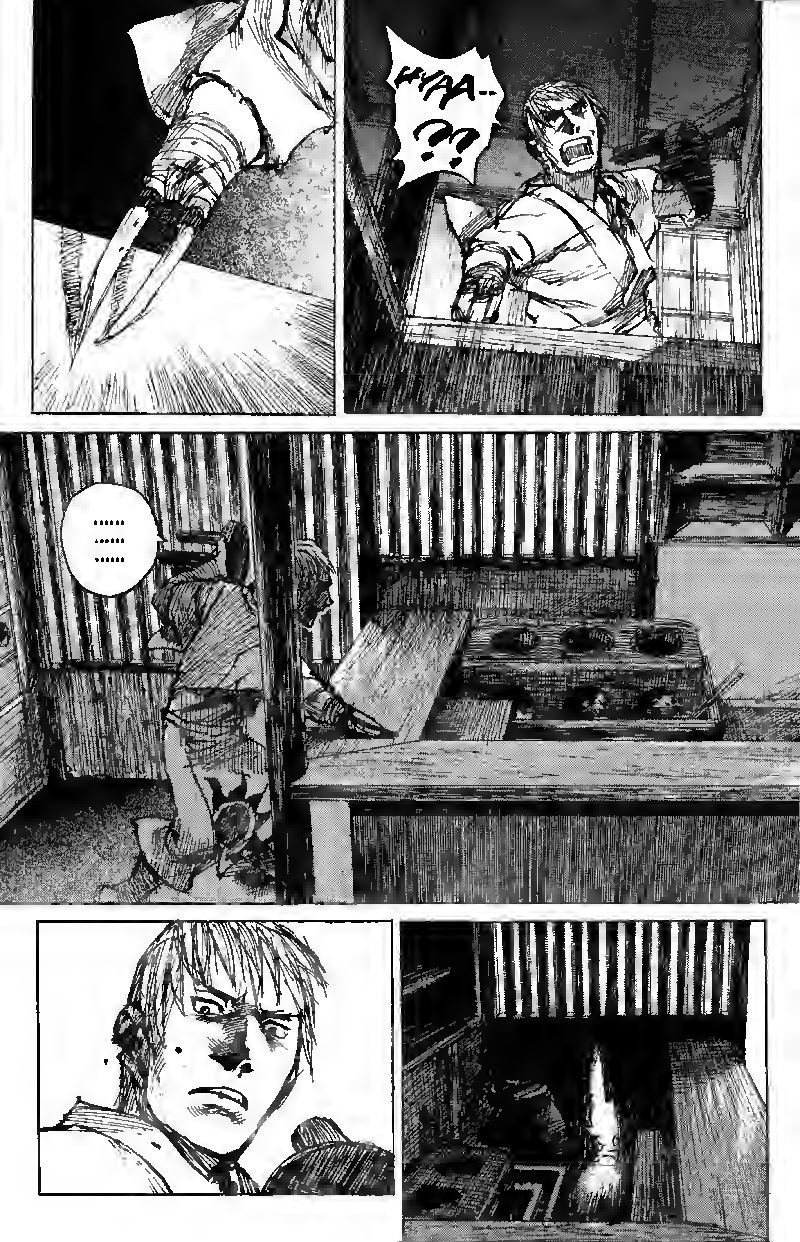
SPLT
WHOD
BOOT!
KRAK

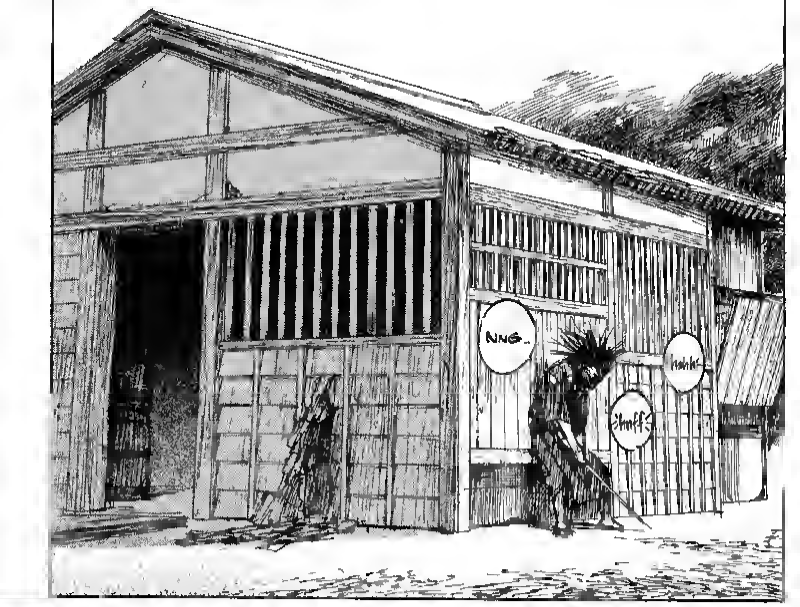
GNNK--
.....

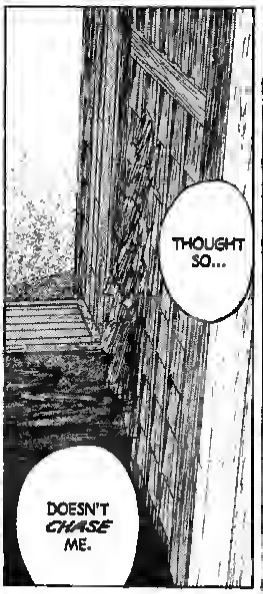
AUGGH!
SON OF A BITCH, THAT HURT!!



TIRED OF PLAYING GAMES...
GOD-DAMN IT...


HYAA--
?!
.....
.....
.....

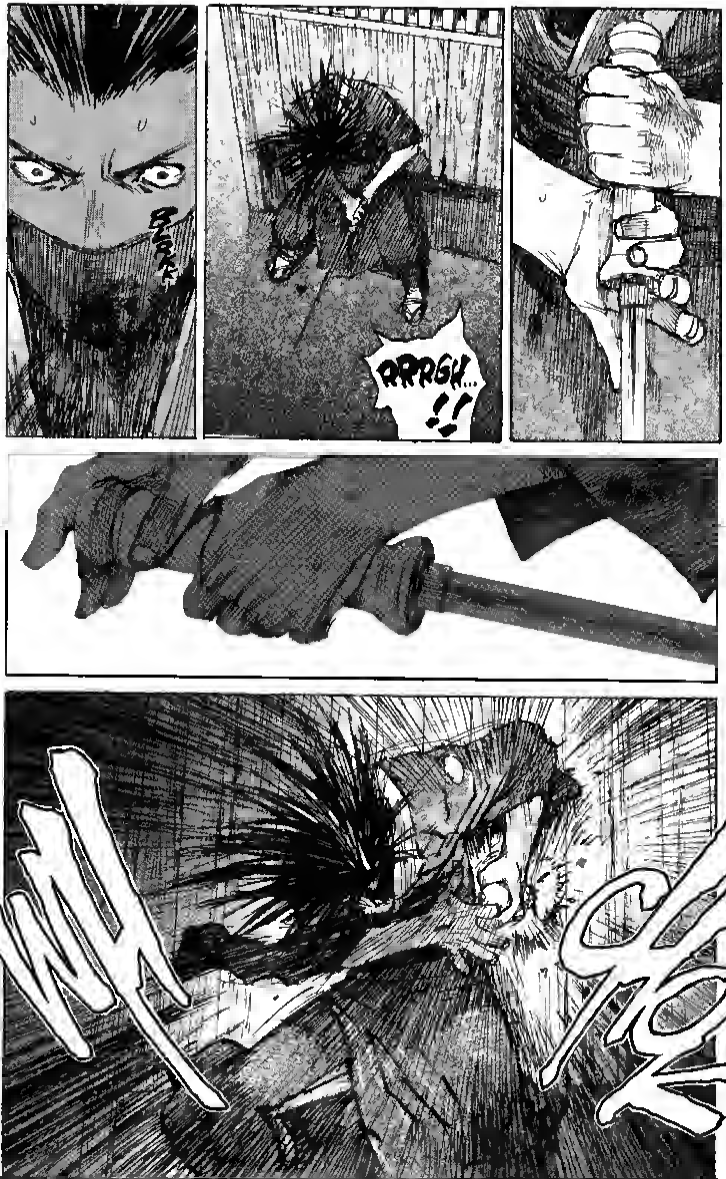

NNG..
Rustle
Shuff

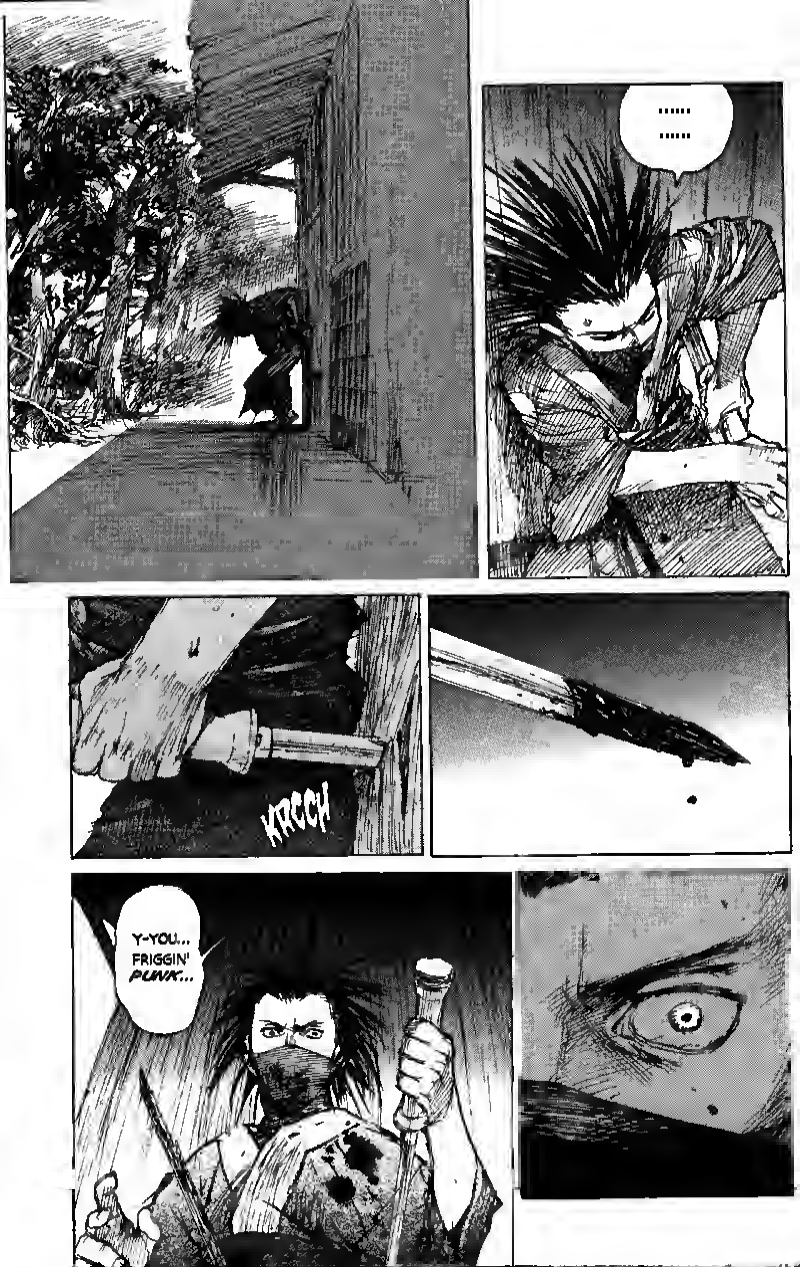

THOUGHT SO...
DOESN'T CHASE ME.

"HE'S STILL NOT USED TO IT.
"FIGHTING ONE-HANDED. I MEAN."

...MANJI, OLD BUDDY, OLD PAL.
THE ENEMY'S NOT ALWAYS AS DUMB AS YOU THINK...
...AND FIGURED OUT HE CAN'T FIGHT WELL IN THE FOREST.
HE DAMN WELL *NOTICED* HE'S GOT A PROBLEM...
I'M SMALLER. MAYBE I'LL HAVE AN EDGE.
WELL, SO BE IT.
IF IT'S THE HUT, IT'S THE *HUT*.
JUST YOU WAIT, SHIRA.
WE'LL SEE WHO LAUGHS LAST--

GCHUK
.....
.....?!
HAAH...
!
UGGK...
AHH...
?!


ARRGH...
!!


.....
.....
KRCCH
Y-YOU...
FRIGGIN'
PUNK...

SHD
!
SHD
NNG..!

Inahh
Inahh
Inahh
Inahh

RUH!
YOU LITTLE SHIT!!
AUUGH!
YOU!
CHUK

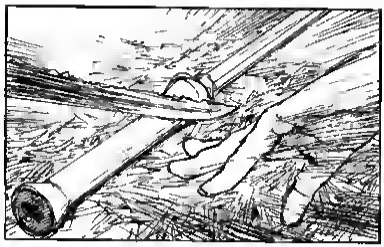
DIE DIE DIE DIE DIE!!
HKR...
.....
.....

SNIK
KICK
OK
UGH

.....
.....
.....
.....
:nahh:
:nahh:
HAH!

GUNSHOT!

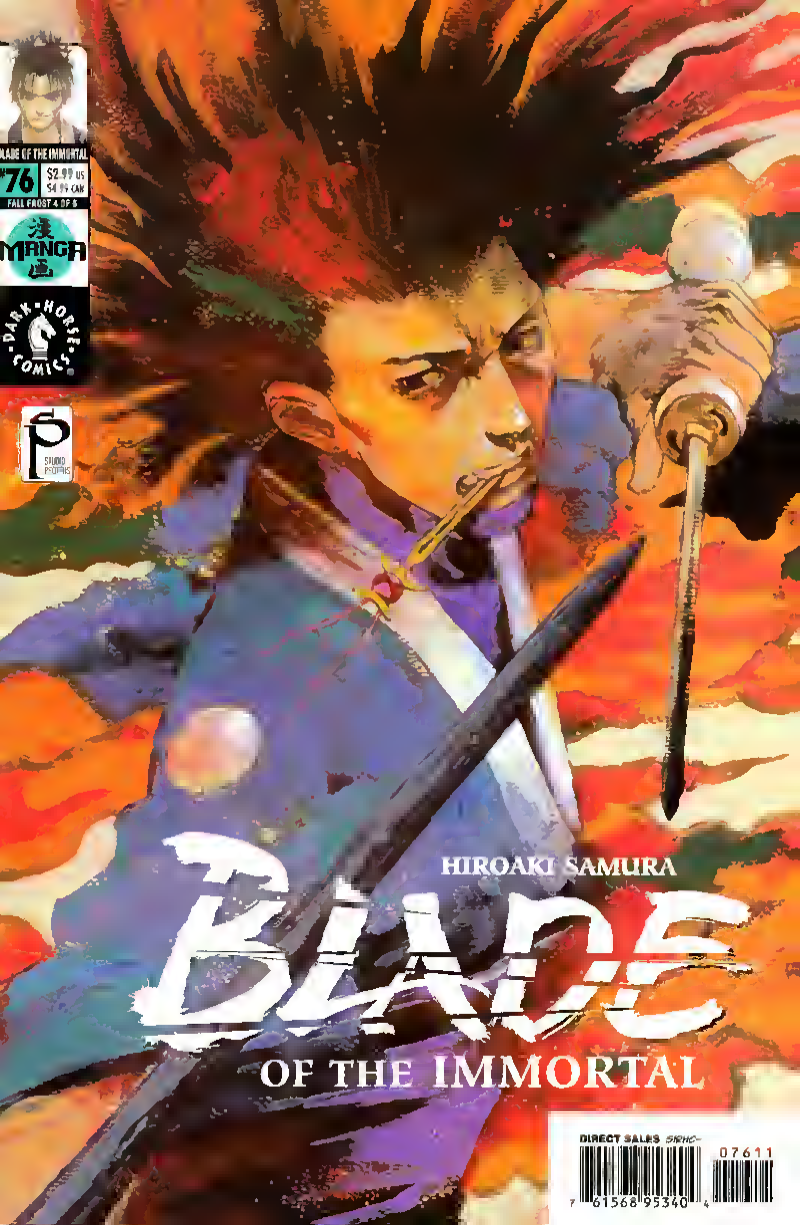
YOU...
YOU...



IS THIS IT...?
THE SWORD THAT SLICED OPEN O-REN'S BREAST?

IT MUST HAVE BEEN SOFT... SO EASY TO CUT...
THE FLESH OF A YOUNG WOMAN...

TO BE CONTINUED...!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BLADE OF THE IMMORTAL

art and story by

HIROAKI SAMURA

CAST OF CHARACTERS

gumbo-
Immortal Scanner

yuchi
Nice enough to distro the stuff

THE STORY SO FAR

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There is no letters section this issue.

ENJOY!